(c) and (d) According to India Meteorological Department, the monsoon rainfall at all India level does not show any trend but there are some regional patterns. This in turn would impact yields of crops. The process of climate change is slow and its effects on agriculture are projected to be apparent over several decades.

(e) Ministry of Enviroment & Forests has organized and funded many workshops/ conferences / seminars on the issue of climate change and brought out various publications. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is organizing conferences/workshops for scientists to give more thrust on climate change research. Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) is regularly conducting fresher courses and training workshops on Climate Change.

Indians in foreign jails

* 374. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:
SHRI VIJAYJ.DARDA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government agrees that 6277 Indian citizen are languishing in foreign jails for travelling with false documents as revealed during deliberations in the recently concluded Pravasi Bhartiya Sammelan (January, 2008); and

(b) if so, whether any efforts are on the anvil to get them back to India especially from UAE; Singapore, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia etc. where their concentration is significant?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIPRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) As per available information, as of 29th November 2007, there were 5,197 Indian nationals imprisoned in foreign jails, some for travelling with false documents and others on other charges such as smuggling, burglary, robbery, drug trafficking, murder and sexual assault.

The Government of India, through its Missions and Posts abroad and in bilateral dealings with foreign Governments, makes every possible efforts to get Indian nationals in foreign jails released quickly and to provide necessary assistance. Such assistance includes seeking consular access to Indian detainees, requesting speedy trials, seeking remission of sentences, providing advice and guidance in legal and other matters, informing their families in India, ensuring fair and humane treatment in foreign jails and facilitating their repatriation to India on their release, including the provision of travel documents when these are not available.

New Forest Bill

*375. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the States that have framed rules and regulations to implement the policy after the passing of the new Forest Bill, giving rights to the original forest dwellers;

(b) whether it is a fact that the tribals are being harassed when they try to take the possession of their land; and

(c) by when and in what manner the harassment of tribals would stop?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers

(Recognition of Forest Rights) Rules, 2008 have been framed and notified on 01.01.2008 at die national level by the Ministry of Tribal Affaris. The State/Union Territory Governments, therefore, are not to frame the rules under the Act.

(b) The State/Union Territory Governments have to implement die Act. So far no such incident of harrasng the tribals have been reported to die Central Government

(c) Does not arise. However, the Government of India had issued guidelines to the State/ Union Territory Governments *vide* its letter dated 21.12.2004 for discontinuance of eviction of tribals.

Coal to oil project of Tatas

* 376. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) has approved a huge project of Tatas with Sasol of South Africa for coal to oil project;

(b) if so, the total cost of the project;

(c) whether there are similar projects waiting for clearance from Government and if so, the details thereof and the time by when they would be approved;

(d) the estimated quantity of oil that is going to be converted from coal and the cost efficiency of the project; and

(e) by when this project would be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Inter Ministerial Group of the Planning Commission has considered the proposal of Tata-Sasol coal to Liquids project and recommended for consideration of Ministry of Coal for allotting coal blocks. The indicated cost of the project is US$ 6 to 8 billion. The Tata-Sasol proposal aims at establishing coal to liquid facility for 3.6 Million Tonne per annum of oil and oil products.

Apart from the above proposal, M/s. Reliance Industries, Essar, Jindal Steel & Power Ltd. and Adani Group have also indicated their interests to pursue Coal to Oil projects. These proposals do not contain details of costing, capacity etc.

The subject of conversion of Coal of Oil is under examination in the Ministry of Coal.

Misleading information under RTI Act

* 377. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAYJ. DARDA:

With the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had provided misleading information under RTI Act stating that the "purpose of Minister's visit to Panama and Cairo from 4-10 November, 2004 was not known and that the trip was not sponsored by the Department";

(b) if so, whether it was later on, after it had appeared in print media, explained that he had visited Egypt and Panama in 2004 accompanied by senior officials, and held several meetings with canal authorities and Government; and